

05/96

I hereby claim the benefit of Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States Application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>Application Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Status</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

And I hereby appoint Ivan S. Kavrukov (Reg. No. 25161), Thomas F. Moran (Reg. No. 16579; Christopher C. Dunham (Reg. No. 22031); Norman H. Zivin (Reg. No. 25385), John P. White (Reg. No. 28678); Robert D. Katz (Reg. No. 30141); Peter J. Phillips (Reg. No. 29691); Richard S. Milner (Reg. No. 33970); Gerard M. Wissing (Reg. No. 36309); Richard F. Jaworski (Reg. No. 33515); and George M. Macdonald (Reg. No. 39284) and each of them, all c/o Cooper & Dunham LLP of 1185 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10036 (Tel. 212-278-0400), my attorneys, each with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to receive the patent, to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith and to file any International Applications which are based thereon under the provisions of the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

Please address all communications, and direct all telephone calls, regarding this application to:

Ivan S. Kavrukov Reg. No. 25161

Cooper & Dunham LLP
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
Tel. (212) 278-0400

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first joint inventor YASUTOSHI HIRANO

Inventor's signature Yasutoshi Hirano

Citizenship Japan

Date of signature August 22, 2001

Residence Osaka, Japan

Post Office Address c/o RICOH COMPANY, LTD.,
3-6, Nakamagome 1-chome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo 143-8555, Japan